

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

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R 180805Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4374
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1102

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CT
SUBJECT: GOCAR CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF BANGUI 1100 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT BOKASSA ANNOUNCED PERSONALLY OVER RADIO
OCTOBER 16 A NEW CABINET WHICH, WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS,
AMOUNTS ESSENTIALLY TO A RESHUFFLE OF SAME PERSONALITIES.

2. ONE MAJOR CHANGE IS ELEVATION OF FORMER RELATIVELY
LOW-RANKING MINISTER FOR MISSIONS LOUIS ALAZOULA TO
MINISTER INTERIOR AND NUMBER FOUR MAN IN GOCAR. ALAZOULA
IS TRUESTED CONFIDENT OF BOKASSA, WHO MAY WELL HAVE WANTED
TO ASSURE LOYALTY IN THIS KEY MINISTRY AT TIME WHEN HE IS
SHOWING CONTINUED CONCERN OVER REAL OR ALLEGED PLOTS
AGAINST HIM. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS DROPPING OF
HENRY-PAUL BOUNDIO, FORMER MINISTER IN CHARGE OF
GOCAR SECRETARIAT GENERAL, WHO HAS BEEN LONG-TIME AND
RESPECTED MEMBZR OF GOVERNMENT AND ASSOCIATE OF BOKASSA.

3. MINISODR OF STATE ANGE PATASSE RETAINS NUMBER TWO
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RANKING IN GOCAR BUT WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF "MISSIONS"

AND NO LONGER HAS PUBLIC HEALTH OR ANY OTHDR SUBSTANITIVE PORTFOLIO. OTHER PORTFOLIOS WERE EITHER RETAINED BY INCUMBENTS OR SWITCHED AMONG THEM; THOSE RETAINED INCLUDE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE AND LABOR, POST AND TELE-COMMUNICATITONS AND FINANCE. RELATIVE RANKING ALSO REMAINS MORE OR LESS INTACT.

4. BOKASSA HIMSELF HAS TAKEN ON TWO ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIOS - NEWLY-COMBINED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND MINES AS WELL AS MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT. HE NOW PERSONALLY HOLDS SIX MINIFTRIES AND CONTUNES TO GATHER MORE FUNCTIONS DIRECTLY UNDER HIM IN PRESIDENCY.

5. CHANGE HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF ONE OF BOKASSA'S PERIODIC RESHUFFLES TO KEEP MINISTERS AND OTHERS ON TOES AND GUESSING RATHER THAN INDICATION OF NEW POLICY DIRECTIONS. IT COMES ON HEELS OF BOKASSA'S SEVERE PUBLIC CRITICISM OCT 15 OF MINISTERS IN GENERAL IN WAKE OF CURRENT FLAP OVER NON-PAYMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES (REFTEL); IN FACT, IT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT FINANCE MINISTER KOYAMBA WAS RETAINED DESPITE THE INCIDENT.

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